

LOCAL RULES

Authority

The following local rules are in effect at Ford's Colony Country Club in accordance with [The Rules of Golf](#), The United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Effective Date: February 10, 2010

Local Rule # 1 - Repair

Repair all divots with sand, fix ball marks on the green and rake bunkers.

Local Rule # 2 - Out of Bounds

White stakes on the course and all paved and unpaved roads define Out of Bounds.

Local Rule # 3 - Ball Drops

Course	Ball Drop		
	Bronze Tee	Silver Tee	Area Designated
Blackheath	3, 8, 12	18	15
Blue Heron		6, 17	
Marsh Hawk		14	17

A player has the option of using the designated ball drop area locations or compliance with [USGA Rule 26](#) Water Hazards (including Lateral Water Hazards).

The designated drop areas require the ball to be dropped, not teed.

Local Rule # 4 - Embedded Ball

Modification of [USGA Rule 25-2](#): A ball embedded in its own pitch mark in the ground through the green may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay, but not closer to the hole.

Local Rule # 5 - Mulch Areas With Flowers and Bushes (Plants)

1. A player whose ball lands in a mulch area and is near or under flowers or a bush (plant) where a swing or stance would damage the flowers or bush (plant) if the ball was played from that location must take relief.
2. The player shall lift and drop ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief outside the mulch bed, without penalty based on the following conditions: not nearer the hole, and not in a hazard or on the green. The ball may be cleaned. If the ball cannot be found it must be treated as a lost ball.

[Ref: USGA Rule 27](#)

Local Rule # 6 - Mulch Area Ditch

The v-groove/drainage ditch that surrounds a mulch area should be treated as "Hole by Greens Keeper". If a ball comes to rest in the v-groove/drainage ditch that surrounds a mulch area, the player may lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole. The nearest point of relief must not be on a hazard or on the putting green. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this rule.

Local Rule # 7 - Protection of Young Trees

If a tree is identified by support posts and/or wires or is less than 4-5 feet tall, and such tree interferes with a player's stance or area of his intended swing, the ball must be dropped in accordance with [USGA Rule 24-2b](#).

Local Rule # 8 - Water Hazards and Lateral Hazards

If it is impracticable to determine whether a ball is in a hazard or would cause an undue delay to play to make the determination, a provisional ball may be played. In such a case if the provisional ball is played and the original ball is in a water hazard, the player may play the original ball as it lies or continue the provisional ball in play, but he may not proceed under [USGA Rule 26-1](#).

Local Rule # 9 - Murdoch Cemetery (Blackheath)

On Hole #2, a ball in the cemetery must be lifted and dropped within one club length that is not nearer the hole and avoids interference of the cemetery without penalty.

Local Rule # 10 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The environmentally sensitive areas on Blackheath, between holes #14 & #15 and on Blue Heron, between holes #11 & #12 are marked by red stakes with green tops. Entry into these areas to retrieve a ball, or to play from are prohibited for environmental reasons. These areas are defined as a lateral water hazards and [USGA Rule 26-1c](#) governs play.

Local Rule # 11 - Electric Fans

The electric fans located on metal poles installed near the greens for air circulation over the greens are temporary immovable obstructions. Through the green the player shall lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club-length of the point thus determined on a part of the course that is not nearer the hole, avoids interference and not in hazard or on the putting green.

Local Rule # 12 - Players Competing From Different Tees

Per [USGA Handicap System, Section 3-5](#):

Because 1) handicaps are calculated to give a player a "reasonable potential" to have a net score equal to the Course Rating, and 2) because the courses have different ratings for each set of tees, there must be an equitable adjustment as stipulated in *The Rules of Golf*. When players are competing from 3 different tees; Gold, Silver and Bronze, they must use the handicap for the tee they are using, and subtract the adjustment.

Players playing from Silver tees competing with players playing from Gold tees must use the Silver tees computer handicap and, in addition, must subtract the difference in course rating between the Silver tees and Gold tees. (Ref: Board of Directors Policy for Players Competing from Different Tees)

Local Rule # 13 - Stones in Bunkers

Stones in bunkers may be regarded as "movable obstructions" (Ref: [USGA Rule 24-1](#)) and may be removed without penalty.

Local Rule # 14 - Relief From Interference by an Immovable Obstruction (Ref: [USGA Rule 24-2](#))

If a ball lies off the putting green but not in a hazard and an immovable obstruction on or within two club lengths of the putting green and within two club lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows: the ball must be lifted and **DROPPED** at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The ball may be cleaned when lifted. (Implemented 10/ 1/ 2005)

Local Rule # 15 - Distance Measuring Devices

For all play at our courses, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures **distance only**. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature, direction etc.), the player is in breach of [USGA Rule 14-3](#), for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used. (Added August 21, 2006)